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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/632,154	08/03/2000	Dave Leahy	17376-5-1US	1133

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GENERAL PATENT CORPORATION INTERNATIONAL
75 MONTEBELLO ROAD
SUFFERN, NY 10901

EXAMINER

NGUYEN, CAO H

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2173

DATE MAILED: 06/02/2004

25

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/632,154

Applicant(s)

LEAHY ET AL.

Examiner

Cao (Kevin) Nguyen

Art Unit

2173

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE ____ MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

Art Unit: 2173

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

2. Claims 4-8 and 15-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Suzuki et al. (US Patent No. 5,736,982).

Regarding claim 1, Suzuki discloses a method for enabling a first user to interact with other users in a virtual space, wherein the first user and the other users each have an avatar and a client process associated therewith, and wherein each client process is in communication with a server process [...a plurality of terminals are connected to a server via a communication network and shared a predetermined common virtual space; see abstract], comprising: (a) receiving a position of at least some of the other users' avatars from the server process [...a plurality of terminals connected via a communication network share a virtual space and are allowed to freely move avatars of terminal users in the virtual space and display on their terminal displays the scenes that the avatars are observing in the virtual space. Images representing the avatars of the users are formed at the positions of the avatars in the virtual space. The scene in the virtual space that is displayed on a display unit of each user terminal contains avatar images of other users in the field of vision of the avatar of each user in the virtual space; see col. 4, lines 18-20.]

Art Unit: 2173

(b) determining from the received positions a subset of the other users' avatars that are to be displayed to the first user [..the architecture of a virtual space VS provided beforehand for the terminal control device 12 of the terminal unit 10.sub.1 of a user U1, positions P1 and P2 of avatars A1 and A2 of users in the virtual space VS and the directions of eyes of the avatars A1 and A2. Moreover, position P1' indicates the position of the avatar A1 having moved thereto and the direction of eye at the position P1' is indicated by the arrow ED1'. On the other hand, FIG. 4B shows a visual field image that the avatar A1 observes in the direction ED1 from the position P1; this visual field image is displayed on the display 13 of the terminal unit 10.sub.1 of the user U1; see col. 5, lines 18-67].

Regarding claim 5, Suzuki discloses (a) receiving a position of at least some of the other users' avatars from the server process (see col.6, lines 1-58); and (b) determining, from the received positions, a set of the other users' avatars that are to be displayed to the first user, wherein steps (a) and (b) are formed by the client process associated with the first user (see col. 8, lines 16-65).

Regarding claim 6, Suzuki discloses a method for further comprising the steps of monitoring an orientation of the first user's avatar; and (d) displaying the set of the other users' avatars from based on the orientation of the first user's avatar as monitored in step (c), wherein steps (c) and (d) are performed by the client process associated with the first user (see col. 14, lines 7-47).

Regarding claim 7, Suzuki discloses wherein step (a) further comprises (a)(1) receiving an orientation of at least some of the other users' avatars from the server process (see figures 9A-9F).

Art Unit: 2173

Regarding claim 8, Suzuki discloses wherein step (b) comprises (b)(1) determining from the received positions an actual number of the other users' avatars; (b)(2) determining a maximum number of the other users' avatars that can be displayed; and (b)(3) comparing the actual number to the maximum number to determine which of the other users' avatars are to be displayed, wherein steps (b)(1)-(b)(3) are performed by the client process associated with the first user (see col. 20, lines 17-67).

Regarding claim 15, Suzuki discloses transmitting the positions of the first and second avatars by the first and second client processes, respectively, to the server process; (c) transmitting the positions of the first and second avatars, by the server process, to the second and first client processes, respectively; and (d) determining, by the second and first client processes, from the positions of the first and second avatars, respectively, whether to display the first and second avatars; see col. 24, lines 1-67).

Regarding claims 16 and 17, Suzuki discloses (e) displaying the first and second avatars when it is determined in step (d) that the first and second avatars are to be displayed; and wherein step © comprises automatically sending the data indicating a position of the first and second avatars, by the server process, to the second and first client processes, respectively (see col. 27, lines 18-56).

Regarding claim 19-20, Suzuki discloses wherein the step © comprises the step of automatically transmitting, by the server process to each client process, the positions of at least some of the avatars that are not associated with the client process (see col. 12, lines 1-67.)

Regarding claims 21 and 22, Suzuki discloses synchronously disseminating to each of the client processes a packet of information updating a list of avatars displayed by the client process

Art Unit: 2173

so that the client process can determine from the packet a set of avatars that are to be displayed” see col. 31, lines 24-67).

Regarding claim 23 , Suzuki discloses the first client process is operable to the positions of the avatars associated with at least some of the other users; and determine from the received positions a set of the other users' avatars that are to be displayed (see figures 17-20).

As claims 24 and 25 are analyzed as previously discussed with respect to claims 5 and 8 above.

Conclusion

3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. (see PTO-892).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cao (Kevin) Nguyen whose telephone number is 703-305-3972. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F: 9:00AM-6:00PM.

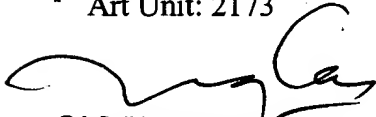
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Cabeca can be reached on 703-308-3116. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Application/Control Number: 09/632,154

Page 6

Art Unit: 2173

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Nguyen', is written over the printed name.

CAO (KEVIN) NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

05/26/04